February 13, 1992

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I received your letter of January 30, 1992. Sorry about the problems with the bag, I could not find anything else large enough to contain the album. I will use another type of bag in the future.

Regarding the newspaper stories on Ragano, I never did receive a copy of the Tampa article. When I send them a copy of the bill for the faxes, I will request it once again. I do not believe Newsday ever made use of the documents for I have yet to have seen a story on the subject. However, I will keep a look out for one.

I actually received a response from Blakey just a few days after I had sent him a letter. He wrote notes directly on my letter and sent it back to me along with my business card crumpled up. I will give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he did not intend for my card to be sent back with the letter. In any event, I inquired as to how he reconciled the 1967 documents on Ragano with the statements Ragano is saying today. I also asked why would Ragano feel it was necessary to make any statements to the FBI when there appeared to be no likelihood that Garrison would implicate either Trafficante or Marcello.

Blakey responded that Marcello could control Garrison, but could he control Hoover? He also pointed out that I only sent him 2 pages out of a total of five and that it was necessary to see the entire document as well as the letter to Hoover. In a way he has a point, but I recall you indicated that the remaining three pages had nothing to do with Kennedy. Furthermore, I would think he would have seen this file during the days of the HSCA and given me a better answer than that.

In order to satisfy my meticulous desires, I have filed a FOIA request for both the remaining pages and letter with the FBI. In any event, Blakey concluded by stating that Ragano would lie in 1967 to throw off suspicion but would have no reason to lie in 1992. I suppose Blakey did not take into account that Ragano is facing a three year prison sentence for tax evasion, is in dire straits financially and happens to be looking for a publisher for his memoirs. Just a coincidence?

Belin never appeared on the radio program with me, although the talk show host indicated he seemed interested and would attempt to contact him again. I did another radio program the other night and received a good response. A television host of a cable station called me to do a hour show on disproving the Warren Commission. I am very much looking forward to taping the show. I enjoy the practice of debating. It only sharpens and hones a much needed skill.

I assume you heard by now about the release of the Dallas Police Department files. I was contacted by another researcher about the finding of an arrest record of three hoboes on the day of the assassination. Their names were listed as Gus W. Abrams (dob 9-29-10), Harold Doyle (dob 12-8-30) and John Forrester Gedney (dob 2-2-27). They were arrested on charges of vagrancy and robbery and held until November 26. I am awaiting a fax of the police report and if it is not enclosed with this letter it shall follow shortly. I am presently assisting in verifying the authenticity of this report. Do you recognize any of these names? The police officers on the arrest sheet were Ernest R. Beck (Homicide and Robbery) and William E. Chambers (Forgery). I am attempting to contact both officers as well.

If this is the first you heard of this, please keep it quiet. I am in the midst of checking out some very good leads. Thanks.

Thanks for returning the card to me. Furthermore, I have a favor to ask and it is one that should interest you as well. If you recall I wrote you in December that I was working on an article concerning the 1989 Justice Department opinion which effectively stated that the President could violate international law under U.S. domestic law. As you know, the Washington Post printed your letter to the editor on the topic.

A Washington Post reporter named Michael Isicoff was able to obtain a copy of the opinion. I have spoken with him and written him twice asking if he would send me a copy. Alas, to no avail. Since you are good friends with George Lardner, I was hoping you might ask him if he would consent to secure a copy for you from Isicoff. It is very important that a proper legal analysis of the opinion is written and that would obviously necessitate review of the document. I would appreciate any assistance you could offer.

Otherwise, all is well. I hope that you can report the same. I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark S. Zaid